I. Election

In the Office Action mailed July 21, 2005, the Examiner alleges that the application contains claims directed to two inventions and, thus, required restriction to one of the following groups:

Group I:	Claims 1-24 and 26
Group II:	Claim 25
Group III:	Claims 27-30

In response, Applicant hereby elects Group I, corresponding to claims 1-24 and 26. Applicant's election is made with traverse on the grounds that the embodiments delineated by the Examiner are not patentably distinct and therefore constitute a single invention concept.

II. Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A controller for a radio-controlled toy, comprising a housing, a first interface disposed on a first side of the housing, a second interface disposed on a second side of the housing, and a steering wheel having a steering shaft, the steering shaft being adapted to be interchangeably inserted into either of the first and second interfaces.

2. (Original) The controller of claim 1 wherein the first interface is disposed on the controller in a symmetric relation to the second interface.

3. (Original) The controller of claim 1 wherein the first interface includes a bore defined therethrough and the second interface includes a bore defined therethrough, the first interface bore being in registry with the second interface bore.

4. (Original) The controller of claim 3 further comprising a rotatable element, the rotatable element having an opening defined therethrough, the rotatable element opening being in registry with the first interface bore and the second interface bore.

5. (Original) The controller of claim 4 wherein the steering shaft is adapted to be inserted into either of the first interface bore and the second interface bore to engage the rotatable element.

6. (Original) The controller of claim 5 wherein the steering shaft comprises a plurality of longitudinally-extending ribs for engaging a plurality of corresponding longitudinally-extending grooves formed in the rotatable element.

7. (Original) The controller of claim 1 wherein each of the first and second interfaces comprise a curved groove adapted to receive a corresponding curved protrusion extending from the steering wheel, whereby the groove guides movement of the protrusion therethrough.

8. (Original) The controller of claim 1 wherein each of the first and second interfaces are adapted to receive a locking plate.

9. (Original) The controller of claim 8 wherein each of the first and second interfaces comprise at least one slot, the slot being adapted to receive a corresponding protrusion extending from the locking plate.

10. (Original) The controller of claim 8 wherein the steering wheel is adapted to engage the first interface and the locking plate is adapted to engage the second interface.

11. (Original) The controller of claim 10 further comprising a connector adapted to be inserted through a bore defined through the locking plate, and the connector being further adapted to secure to a distal end of the steering shaft.

12. (Original) The controller of claim 11 wherein a portion of the connector engages a lip of the locking plate upon insertion of the connector through the bore of the locking plate.

13. (Original) The controller of claim 8 wherein the steering wheel is adapted to engage the second interface and the locking plate is adapted to engage the first interface.

14. (Original) The controller of claim 13 further comprising a connector adapted to be inserted through a bore defined through the locking plate, and the connector being further adapted to secure to a distal end of the steering shaft.

15. (Original) The controller of claim 14 wherein a portion of the connector engages a lip of the locking plate upon insertion of the connector through the bore of the locking plate.

16. (Original) The controller of claim 6 further comprising an engagement member extending substantially orthogonally from the rotatable element.

17. (Original) The controller of claim 16 wherein the engagement member comprises a plurality of terminals forming a portion of a steering switch, the plurality of terminals being provided to electromechanically interact with a plurality of terminal plates associated with the steering switch.

18. (Original) The controller of claim 17 wherein movement of the steering shaft operatively imparts movement to the terminals along the terminal plates, whereby movement of the terminals along the terminal plates provides steering signals to the radio-controlled toy.

19. (Original) The controller of claim 18 further comprising a steering reverse switch, whereby actuation of the steering reverse switch reverses the steering signals provided to the radio-controlled toy.

20. (Original) The controller of claim 19 further comprising a left/right switch disposed on the housing of the controller, the left/right switch corresponding to the steering reverse switch, whereby movement of the left/right switch actuates the steering reverse switch.

21. (Original) A controller for a radio-controlled toy, wherein the controller is adaptable for left-handed or right-handed use, the controller comprising:

a housing;

a right interface positioned on a right side of the housing;

a left interface positioned on a left side of the housing, the left interface being substantially symmetric to and aligned with the right interface;

a rotatable element disposed between the right and left interfaces, the rotatable element being in registry with the right and left interfaces; and a steering wheel having a steering shaft, the steering shaft being adapted to interchangeably engage the rotatable element through either the right interface or the left interface, whereby rotation of the steering wheel, and therefore the rotatable element, operatively imparts steering signals to the radio-controlled toy.

22. (Original) The controller of claim 21 further comprising a locking plate, the locking plate being adapted to engage either of the right interface and the left interface.

23. (Original) The controller of claim 22 further comprising a connector adapted to be inserted through the locking plate and into the distal end of the steering shaft to secure the steering wheel and the locking plate to the controller.

24. (Original) An assembly for providing steering signals to a radio-controlled toy, comprising:

means for engaging a rotatable element for imparting rotation to the rotatable element, the rotatable element being disposed within a housing;

means for electromechanically interacting with a steering control circuit disposed within the housing to generate steering signals, such means for electromechanically interacting being operatively connected to the rotatable element; and

means for transmitting the steering signals to the radio-controlled toy to control steering of the radio-controlled toy;

wherein the rotatable element is interchangeably engageable from either side of the housing.

25. (Cancelled).

26. (Original) A controller for a radio-controlled toy, wherein the controller is adaptable for left-handed or right-handed use, the controller comprising:

a housing;

a right interface positioned on a right side of the housing;

a left interface positioned on a left side of the housing, the left interface being substantially symmetric to and aligned with the right interface;

a rotatable element disposed between the right and left interfaces, the rotatable element being in registry with the right and left interfaces; and

a pair of steering wheels having a common steering shaft, the steering shaft being disposed through the rotatable element and the steering wheels being disposed adjacent to the right and left interfaces, whereby rotation of the steering shaft, and therefore the rotatable element, operatively imparts steering signals to the radio-controlled toy.

Claims 27-30 (Cancelled).

31. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

means for reconfiguring a radio-controlled toy controller between first and second controller configurations each associated with a corresponding one of left-handed and right-handed user-operation of the controller, wherein the controller reconfiguring means includes:

a user-operable interface configured for manipulation by a user; and

first and second interfaces corresponding to the first and second controller configurations, respectively, the first and second interfaces disposed on opposing sides of the controller and each configured to detachably couple with the user-operable interface.

32. (New) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein:

an aperture extends through the first and second interfaces, collectively;

the controller reconfiguring means further includes a member rotatably coupled to the controller; and

the user-operable interface includes an extension configured to extend into the aperture and transfer motion of the user-operable interface to the member.

33. (New) The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the extension includes at least one radially-extending protrusion, and the member includes at least one recess configured to receive the at least one radially-extending protrusion.

34. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a controller configured to remotely control a toy via wireless electronic control signals, the controller including a housing and means for reconfiguring the controller between first and second controller configurations each associated with a corresponding one of left-handed and right-handed user-operation of the controller, wherein the controller reconfiguring means includes:

first and second substantially symmetric interfaces located in substantial alignment on opposing sides of the housing;

a rotatable element substantially aligned with and located between the first and second interfaces; and

a shaft configured to engage the rotatable element when disposed in each of first and second orientations corresponding to the first and second controller configurations, respectively, whereby rotation of the shaft imparts rotation to the rotatable element, thereby imparting wireless electronic control signals to the toy.

35. (New) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the controller includes a trigger control user-operable to impart wireless electronic speed control signals to the toy, and wherein the controller reconfiguring means further includes a steering wheel fixed to one end of the shaft, the steering wheel being user-operable to impart rotation to the rotatable element via the shaft and, thereby, impart wireless electronic directional control signals to the toy.